The despairing Marie, feeling powerless. And what appears before her eyes is...?

クロックワークプラネット
CLOCKWORK PLANET

...Huh?

NAOTO... RYUZU...?

?

I MUST BE SEEING THINGS... HE'S DEAD, AFTER ALL.

YEAH RIGHT. THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAPPEN,

I'M JUST A BROKEN DOWN PERSON INDULGING IN FANTASIES AND REFUSING TO ADMIT THAT IT'S THE END.

STAND UP, MARIE.

SO I WILL TAKE THIS VISION,

AND WITH ONE SWIFT KICK

I WILL DRAW THE LINE——!

クロックワークプラネット

最新第3巻発売中！

原作/榎宮祐・暇奈椿（調談社ラノベ文庫より）　漫画/クロ（第22回シリウス新人賞出身）
キャラクター原案/茨乃

BHU BREAH?!

Clock19 アンダーグラウンダー
Underground

前回まで

区画・三重の地下工場で巨大兵器を発見したマリー達　彼女は知事邸を襲撃し全て暴く　それは三重と東京の戦争という真実　絶望するマリーだったが、そこへ大深度地下層へ落ちて死んだはずのナオトとリューズかひょっこり現れた

!?

crunch

OW OW OW OW

GWA AAA AH

I'M DYING!

Naoto-sama!

HE'S... ALIVE?

Hold-

Gimme a break...

GUEH?!

IF YOU WERE ALIVE, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR FACE SOONER?!

C'MON YOU GUYS, SETTLE DOWN!

If you do not give Naoto-sama a moment, I shall with all haste dismantle you like the rabid dog you are.

ｶﾁｬ

YOU...

Urp

HOURS EARLIER

...Nnn

WHERE AM I?

IT'S PITCH BLACK. I CAN'T SEE A THING ...

AH, RIGHT. WE WENT LOOKING FOR THAT HUGE WEAPON UNDER-GROUND AND ENGAGED ANCHOR-CHAN.

WE FOUND OUR-SELVES FALLING,

AND THEN —

Naoto-sama.

RyuZU!

As you must be worn out, please just listen.

At present we have stopped a great distance underground, outside the city of Mie.

Have you awak-ened?

The framework of the planet extends every-where...

Here there are remains of digging into the mantle for this planet's raw ma-terials.

UWEA AAH?! I'M GONNA DIE?!

カ゛ーバ

Right now, the surroun-ding area is uninha-bitable.

It's a place where the weak and fragile Naoto-sama would die in 10 se-conds—

Naoto-sama, could it be that...

Someone is keep-ing this sole area viable.

How?

Huh? But I am alive?

ガラ

ガラ

ガラ

You ordered us to go down here without knowing?

It is fortunate that this area has been kept habitable,

but if it had not been, you would have died instantly.

I am so very sorry for putting you to all that trouble.

Yes Ma'am...

grin

Be prepared for many lectures when we get back.

I've heard machinery sounds since we got here.

Looks like someone's here too.

For now, let's go back up.

If this place is maintained, there should be an exit.

Hm?

What's that?

A Core Tower?

Holes?

Well, it was originally a town of nothing but holes...

Empty inside... That would indeed be odd.

Hmm ...

But as far as I can tell by listening to the sounds, it's hollow inside.

Considering the direction, it would be the purged Grid Shiga, would it not?

...

Whoa ...

I guess they have regrets about Shiga, huh?

LAKE BIWA

It was a rustic, provincial town that was the greater part of Japan's northernmost water reservoir, where a lake covered 1/6 of the area.

Because it was purged, Mie's climate became hot and humid.

pause

... Naoto-sama,

I am very sorry, but...

Hm?

I am truly sorry.

NO AS I SAID

Why are you apologizing?!

EH?

What a pickle

There is no way I can atone for my thoughtlessness, or my defective imouto's rudeness, but even so...

I have presented Naoto-sama with unforgivable danger.

Please, somehow find it in your heart to forgive me.

tremble

tremble

STOP IT!

RAISE YOUR HEAD, RYUZÚ!

I'm not upset.

Don't worry about it.

It has always been exceedingly difficult for her to express her feelings, even to her sisters.

You heard that child's voice, did you not?

I was surp-rised.

I said we'd save AnchoR-chan.

Plus, no matter how defective she may be, she's in a sorry state.

Right?

Oh, yeah.

It's because of that mask.

We need to find a way back up from here quickly so we can save AnchoR-chan.

But if that attack was not by Anch-oR's own volition...

!

It's here.

There's something we'd like to ask you.

Excuse us.

Who is it? Why have you come?

We're just lost kids passing by.

We'd like to ask how to go about getting back up.

IT'S A MAN.

I don't care if you come in.

It's not locked.

.....

So I wonder, who are you? And where did you come from?

I'm not particularly angry.

I'm just an ordinary old man; a retired engineer.

slam

You can't get back up.

So how can we get back up?

Mhm, mhm.

We have fallen 20,425m from the bottom of the city.

Now listen here!

collapse

While we're wasting time here, AnchoR-chan is...

NAOTO-SAMA!

!

stagger

If you're going to rest, you can do so on the bed.

I'M DYING ?!

If you rest a bit you will be fine.

Eh?!

You should lie down a bit so that you can go on without dying.

The oxygen here is extremely thin.

...Ah, I see.

How can we get back up to the surface?

Now then,

I shall inquire in Naoto-sama's place.

You have feelings for your master.

You are an *Initial-Y* Series?

Only you automata could survive trading blows with that thing while remaining unscathed.

Don't get so alarmed.

Who are you?

Are you the foremost machine she possessed?

I hear the Breguet daughter staged a grand fight to prevent the purge of Kyoto.

I must admit, I am defeated.

It's not really wrong.

would not be one who has really renounced the world and shut himself away.

One who knows the latest gossip

It's true that the elevator stopped working.

If you give it power, it will move.

You just operate it for hooligans' sake.

It does not matter who you are.

Would you listen to an old man's tale, if only for a bit?

1000 YEARS AGO

THIS WORLD REACHED THE END OF ITS LIFESPAN.

THE PERSON KNOWN AS 'Y' RECONSTRUCTED THAT DEAD WORLD WITH NOTHING BUT GEARS.

Wherever did 'Y' come from?

Were they a man? A woman? A god? A person?

We are of course not phantasms.

While it is artificial, that artifice even now cannot be explained...

You do believe that we really are alive on this planet... don't you?

Any other foolish questions?

Even if you call them that...

Foolish ...?

Tell me,

Initial-Y Series.

No. I admire such efforts.

How many scientists and artisans do you think devoted their lives

to explaining the Clockwork Planet, 'Y's technology, only to fail?

However, I spare no concern for a loser such as you.

Needless to say, I am one of them. Would you ridicule me for it?

Why did he toss us into this thing of enigmatic uncertainty

which nobody can comp-rehend?

What was y' thinking when he recreated this world?

Shut up, old man.

I'm fine.

Talking to this guy is pointless. I've already found a way for us to get out of here and back up.

Naoto-sama, how do you feel?

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN EVEN ONE PERSON WHO COULD MASTER CERTIFI-CATION.

THE MASTER OF AN *INITIAL-Y* SERIES ...

Young man—

I have one question for you. Upon answering it, I shall operate the elevator for you.

WHO IN THE WORLD IS THIS BOY...?

After that, the old guy got the elevator working and we came up.

...And that's how it went.

Rngh

Snap

pop

Well, that's fine.

Rather, we should get to Tokyo.

What are you talking about? If I died, that would make Ryuzu sad.

All I wanted to do was to save AnchoR-chan.

But... Marie? Just how *stupid* are you?

Uwah

HUH?

So then you didn't die for my sake?

Say, Naoto...

After all, AnchoR-chan is that big weapon's escort, and AnchoR-chan was originally in Tokyo.

Eh?

Therefore, the weapon's target is Tokyo, right?

What about keeping an eye on Tokyo?

The one in the lead is Mie, right?

Tokyo will assemble the Army, and Mie will activate the weapon.

It's whether we can stop that huge weapon from operating.

Right.

The problem is what to do about it.

If we do that, when the guns start firing in Tokyo, settling it will be no easy matter...

irritated

annoyed

pissed

AAA AAH!

JUST SHUT UP!

NO MATTER HOW YOU LINE IT ALL UP, MY GOAL IS CLEAR!

I'M GOING TO SAVE ANCHOR !!

IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA PILE UP POINT-LESS REASONS WHY IT CAN'T BE DONE AND RUN AWAY, I'LL DO IT, EVEN THOUGH I'M AN IDIOT!

SO?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!

WELL?!

DON'T TAKE ME SO LIGHTLY !!

Tenjo-
what
made me
snap.

!

I AM THE WOMAN WHO CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING BEING IMPO-SSIBLE!

That's right.

I am.

...

A question for you, young man.

In this world... where humanity fights despair itself,

aren't you doubtful?

Huh?

Who are you to speak for humanity?

Don't just lump me in with a quitter like you.

I DO NOT DESPAIR!

...NO, IT CAN'T BE.

THESE TWO ARE...

Like I said,

you go help AnchoR.

I'll save the world.

I have a great plan.

Naoto, are you prepared to have your name go down in history?

But we are terrorists.

War between Mie and Tokyo? No way to stop it?

Yes, if it comes down to normal means, there's nothing we can do.

BEFORE MIE, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE TOKYO BY STORM!

Let's meet again, young man.

Gn

No...

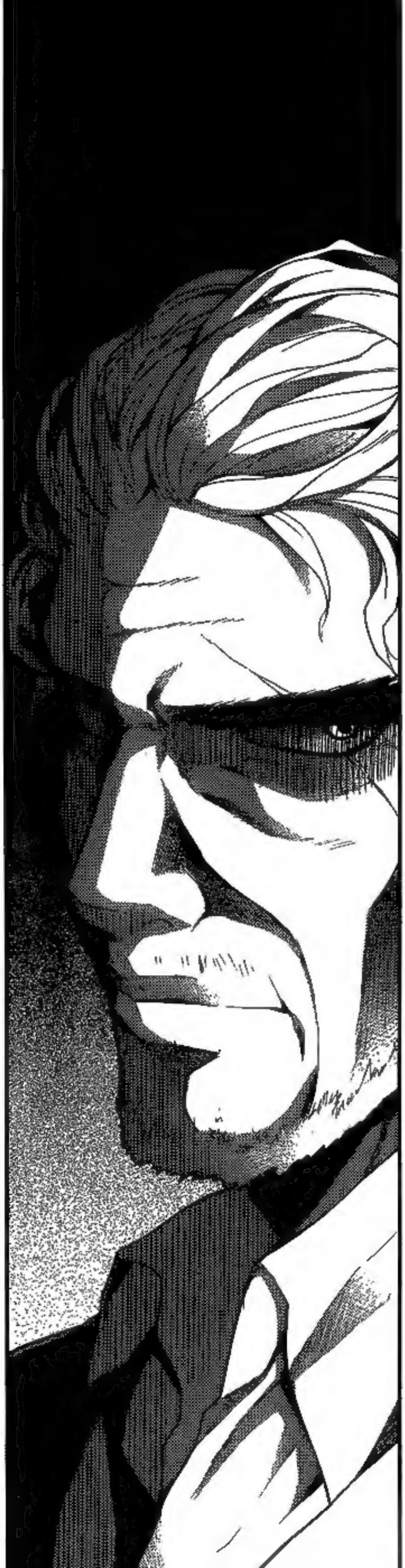
You're impersonating a mere human,

"Y".

To be continued

クロックワークプラネット 9月号につづく

Next time, turnabout terrorism!



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